California GARDEN

WINTER NUMBER Volume 38, Nos. 3 & 4

WISHING

A Very Merry Christmas

TO YOU

White Fragrant Flowers
by
AUSTIN FARICY

Return to the Forest

Plants for Christmas Color
by
ALICE M. CLARK

Decorations
by
C. I. JERABEK

Speakers' Platform

One Small Garden
by
RUTH R. NELSON

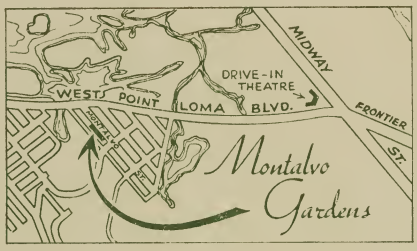
BEGONIAS

Rex and Fibrous

Ferns

Fuchsias

Seasonal Potted Plants



4455 Montalvo St.

Bayview 4070

Half Block from the La Jolla Bus Line

JUST THINK—

How many of your relatives and friends would appreciate a subscription to **California Garden!** Through 38 years this sincere little magazine has promoted beauty in San Diego County and recorded its achievements in the flower world. Here you have more information for your garden than in any other flower magazine.

AN INEXPENSIVE YEAR-ROUND GIFT

Each copy will be treasured by flower lovers. A gift subscription to California Garden is a thoughtful yet easy way of saying "Merry Christmas," "Happy Birthday," or "Thinking of You."

Fill out the coupon below and mail to:

CALIFORNIA GARDEN
Dept. M, Box 323
San Diego 12, California

Enclosed please find.....for $.....
to cover the following:

No.	Item	Amount
.....	year Membership to S. D. Floral Association ($1.50 yr.)	$.....
.....	year Subscription to **California Garden** ($1.00 yr.).....	$.....
.....	year Combination Membership-Subscription ($2.00 yr.)..	$.....
.....	Sustaining Membership to the Association ($5.00 yr.)....	$.....

Name

Address

City Zone State

Your gardening friends may not know about this valuable flower magazine.

Send in suggested names and addresses with your blank.

California Garden

OFFICERS
MRS. MARY A. GREER, President
Woodcrest 2267
ARTHUR M. SHOVEN, Treasurer
Jackson 7138
DIRECTORS
MRS. S. H. CARSE
ARTHUR M. SHOVEN
ROLAND S. HOYT
DEAN PALMER
W. ALLLEN PERRY
MRS. J. TERRELL SCOTT

MISS ALICE GREER, Secretary
Woodcrest 2267

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
The San Diego Floral Association
ADDRESS ALL EDITORIAL COMMUNICATIONS TO
335 Ozark Street, San Diego 2, Calif.
AND BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE TO
P.O. BOX 323. SAN DIEGO 12. CALIFORNIA

Ada Perry, Editor
Editorial Staff
Mrs. J. G. Clark Mrs. J. T. Scott

Winter, 1947
Vol. 38 Nos. 3 & 4

Entered as second-class matter December 8, 1910, at the Post Office at San Diego, California, under the Act of March 3, 1879. The California Garden is on the list of publications authorized by the San Diego Retail Merchant's Association

Advertising copy should be in by the first of February, May, August, and November. Rates: 1 column, per year, $33.00; per issue, $8.50; ½ column, per year, $18.00; per issue, $4.50.

Subscription to The California Garden, $1.00 per year; foreign countries and Canada, $1.25; membership, $1.50 per year; The California Garden and membership, $2.00 per year; sustaining, $5.00

Meeting held third Tuesday of each month at Theosophical Society, 4th at Olive. 7:30 P. M.

Plants for Winter Color, Indoors And Out, Christmas and Every Day

By ALICE M. CLARK

In Southern California, berried shrubs, bougainvilleas, aloes and poinsettias give us flaming masses of color to make a gay holiday season. But, when the tissue and tinsel of Christmas are put away, you will crave more restful colors both in the garden and house. It is too soon for the roses and daffodils of spring and if you have not had foresight enough to start sweet peas, larkspur and calendula early, you will suddenly become aware of a flowerless outlook. If you will begin now to acquire some of the plants suggested in this article, you will have plenty of color, indoors and out, by next winter, with comparatively little effort.

Put shrubs on your Christmas list—they make such long-lasting presents! Camellias come first because their glossy dark foliage forms a handsome background for other plants during the rest of the year. San Diego is becoming known as a favorable section for their development, as we miss most of the heavy rains that blight the flowers when they are ready to unfold. Camellias, properly planted in an acid soil, well drained, carefully watered during the summer and lightly fed every six weeks, will repay their initial investment many times.

One note of warning! If given a camellia plant in flower, do not keep it inside for more than a day or so. It needs the moisture and coolness of the garden and will suffer almost a complete set-back in the house. Do not hesitate to pick the blooms. If a very young plant, twist off the flower with a screwing motion and cut a leaf from the base of the bush to go with it. When the shrub is larger you can pick short stems with the flowers. Some flowering wood may be lost but it stimulates bushy growth on most varieties.

There is an overwhelming list of these camellia aristocrats to choose from with blooms from October to May. My greatest pleasure is from those that unfold when there is little else to enjoy. The pristine whiteness of a corsage of C. alba plena, is enhanced on a cloudy day. You can cheer a shut-in with gay striped red-and-white blooms of C. Daikagura. If you are situated where C. Pink Perfection does not do well, you can gloat over a pink confection from C. High Hat, in great favor just now. C. Debutante is another lovely pink to bring into the house on a snappy morning. They do not mind cold weather. Consult a reliable camellia nurseryman for other varieties and make your selections as they bloom.

Azaleas are next to camellias on my score-card. They are fine in the foreground of camellias, favoring similar conditions, and can be bordered with fairy primroses, (p. malicoides,) in soft tones of pink and white. (Pot up some extras of the latter as they are also nice in the house.) Those who are used to the tree-like forms of azaleas in the south, will not echo my enthusiasm for our smaller ones. We do not have the naturally acid soil to grow them so freely and luxuriantly, but we can raise them very satisfactorily; in fact, some of their finest hybridizing has been done in the southern part of this state.

In ten years of acquaintance with them, I have grown to love azaleas for the woodsey feeling imparted by their foilage all through the year, as well as for their breath-taking spring bloom. Under my conditions they offer flecks of color in a gradual crescendo from October to their March climax. I keep them in pots so they may be taken up for closer enjoyment. They have even decked the church altar when other flowers were scarce. Potted in peat and sand or a compost of rotted wood, they thrive with plenty of water, following the camellia feeding schedule. Spray as for fuchsias, as they are subject to the same pests, plus rose beetles and leaf rollers, that disfigue the foliage. These can be controlled, but do not worry too much, as they flower just the same, followed by a new crop of leaves in the spring.

It is a good idea to have several kinds of azaleas in a mass planting. The small-flowered, evergreen forms, called Kurumes, usually have smaller leaves and a lacy open habit with faster growth. They vary according to the species involved. Some have large star-like flowers, some are spotted like an apple blossom. The hose-in-hose type has two little bells,

one inside the other. It was fortunate for me that one of the latter, known as Hexe, was the first azalea I purchased as it is a strong grower and gives some color most of the time. Seraphim is an early one with trumpet-shaped flowers of luscious pink and wonderful honeysuckle fragrance.

The large-flowered azaleas, known as Indicas, are later in the garden, but you may be given one that has been forced into bloom for Christmas. Keep it in the coolest room, spraying its leaves with a fine mist now and then, and set outside each night. Never let it dry out, and never let any plant stand in an outside container with water in the bottom. Pick off the old flowers as they wilt and remove the azalea to a shady part of the garden as soon as it is spent. When new tip growth begins feed an acid plant food, just scratching it in lightly around the outside edge of the pot. It should carry over without harm. I almost weep when I see azaleas discarded after bloom, as they will often revive after great punishment.

Coral Vervaeneana seems to be the fastest grower of this large-flowered class. Some are inclined to be one-sided and all develop their fine dark-leaved foliage slowly. I am especially fond of the white, with rose border known as Albert and Elizabeth, and the large single, Prof. Walters, that looks exactly like a pelargonium. Azaleas stand considerable cold. The deciduous ones bloom later.

If you receive a cyclamen, never forget to water it and keep it out of the direct sun. When the bloom is over, sink the pot in the semi-shade outdoors and ease up on the water a bit to let it rest. When it begins to grow again, water regularly and it will give scattered bloom all summer. Repot in good soil in September, leaving the top third above the earth and replace in the garden. It can be brought into the house to bloom again when night temperatures get low, but do not expect it to be as fine as the first year. For wonderful color outdoors fill a bed with potted cyclamen. They are tops for long-flowering beauty.

It is my firm belief that Californians can use plants indoors in the winter to even better advantage than their eastern cousins. Living green materials are a special addition to modern homes with plenty of light. Once the decorators discover the adaptability of begonias to inside culture, the nurseries will be hard pressed to supply the demand. Aren't you all tired of the repetitious philodendrons and peperomias? They certainly are hardy and will grow in difficult spots, but it is time to brighten up with a few begonias.

In Southern California we can have beautiful house plants by bringing potted specimens in from the garden when there is a dearth of cut flowers. Do not leave them inside too long, nor should they have a sudden shift outside when the nights are very cold. By alternating them in and out they will not be subject to the pests that might catch them if they stay indoors. There is a large selection of begonias that are adapted to various conditions in the house but I will only mention a few that are blooming now.

You are all familiar with B. Lucerna, whose cherry-like clusters hang from very tall plants almost the year around. Try some of these in large pots indoors where you can appreciate their flowers and silver-spotted leaves with red backs. Another begonia, Mrs. W. A. Wallow, has sleek dark leaves with a red facing that is particularly lovely when the light shines through it. Large branching racemes of soft, waxy-pink blooms grace it at this time of year.

If you want something truly exotic, use B. Templini to enliven the winter picture. It has shining leaves that are slashed, ruffled and red-edged. In addition they are dizzily mottled with rose to lemon-yellow splashes. The more sun in the garden, the more color. Flowers are hardly necessary to this begonia but it is bedecked with many small rosy corymbs. These show off to better advantage on the species which lacks the spots but has the appalling name of B. phyllomaniacea. Another decorative begonia has green leaves marbled with chocolate tracings, and smaller flowers. It has several names, but the final one is B. Perle de Lorraine.

Imagine an extra large poplar leaf; add several pleats to its smooth surfact, and put a red polka-dot at its sinus. Top several of these leaves with a branching inflorescence of brightest red, with yellow stamen, and

(Continued on Page 8, First Column)

C. J. Jerabek Jingles Our Christmas Bells

Editorial Note: Do you believe in Santa Claus? Oh, all right, so you're too big to be asked that. Well, do you believe Mr. Jerabek is our Christmas Decorations Claus? Thank you, that makes it official. C. I. Jerabek on Christmas decorations follows:

Christmas is not only for the children. We grown-ups should have a share in making this day a pleasure. Let me mention a few of the trees and shrubs which are very decorative for Yuletide purposes, for the doors and dinner tables. Sprays one to two feet long are usually the best, from the Pfitzeriana, Sabin, and Torulosa junipers; the Monterey and Aleppo pines; Araucaria, excelsa and Cryptomeria japonica, the Monterey and Guadalupe cypress; the Magnolia grandiflora; and various kinds of firethorn.

For making roping or festoons, cut pieces from six to eight inches long and bind them together tightly. If the foliage of your cut twigs is of a sparse nature, then more sprigs must be used to give your roping more body. When it is denser, it is easier to insert other material into it. The type of evergreens for this work, as well as for wreaths, include the many varieties of arborvitae and Italian, Arizona and Funebris cypress. Juniperus conferta is especially good. The Casuarina or beefwood, the lemonade berry, and the well known California redwood are all very useful.

No doubt all of us would like some of the true hollies, and some grow the Chinese holly which does well here. Good substitutes are Mahonia (hollygrape, Oregon grape), bealei, nevini and aquifolium; and Osmanthus (false holly), ilicifolius, and the California scrub oak, Quercus dumosa.

In making wreaths, it is a good idea to combine some kinds of plant material—berries, fruits, seed pods—with the greenery. These combinations are what makes home wreaths so attractive. For instance: sprigs of pyracantha berries; seedpods of the Eucalypti, the red flowering ficifolia and the bluegum, E. globulus being the best; the waxen white berries of

the night blooming jasmines, Cestrum nocturnum and parqui; the fruits of the Arbutus unedo or strawberry tree, and the dwarf pomegranates. Rose hips are very good, the ragged robin producing them abundantly.

Other sources are Raphiolepis ovata, Hakea laurina and saligna, and the bottle and plane trees.

If you are fortunate enough to have a few twigs of Laurus nobilis, Grecian bay, or Umbellularia Californica, the California laurel, they will fill your rooms with pungent odor and add to your pleasure.

While some may have sufficient material, others may not have anything suitable. Perhaps a neighbor or friend will gladly share the trimmings from their trees and shrubs. In gathering these, whether your own or your friend's, do not break the branches or twist off cones or other seed pods. Instead, use a sharp cutter and avoid injury to the plants.

Plant in December

Bulbs are ideal to plant in December since getting them in is not an arduous task, and it is such a pleasure that it fits in with the joyful month. A list of bulbs copied from a San Diego seed store's display is as follows:

Watsonias in orange, red, orchid, pink, and lilac; rainbow freesias, baby glads and black and white callas.

Oregon Easter lilies, sparaxis, nerines and Gurnsey lilies; scillas, snowflakes and anemones and ranunculus.

Grape hyacinths, and narcissus of the Barrii, Incomparabilis and jonquil types.

Fancy trumpet daffodils in all yellows, white and yellow, and nearly all-white; tulips and hyacinths; Regal lilies; the Sunset and Green Mountain lilies.

Lastly, pure Southern California coloring in the Glory of the Sun, and Montbreitas and tigridias. Glory of the Sun is a blue flowering bulb like our skies and the montbretias and tigridias match our tile roofs and sunsets.

Plant bulbs in December and give them for Christmas.

White Fragrant Flowers

By Austin Faricy

Fragrance is perhaps the most enchanting dimension of a garden. The images evoked are often tantalizingly difficult to capture. Who has not been vividly reminded, on a sudden whiff of fragrance, of *something,* and yet been unable to tell *what?*

Fragrance is less likely to come unsought in southern California than in regions of a moister air and of the same day and night temperature; our hot dry days and cool nights do not favor such unforgettable redolence as the wallflowers of Oxford or the violets of Ravenna. That it is possible in San Diego to have a year-round procession of ravishing scents, is what this article aims to show; not only that, but the year on which it is based was spent with most of the plants huddled in gallon and five-gallon cans on a hillside pitilessly swept by a hot dusty wind. What could not be achieved in a walled garden or a lath-house?

The selection indicated by the title is not as arbitrary as might appear, for a surprising number of the most fragrant flowers are white, and of white flowers are fragrant. But the gorgeous, scentless, white camellias and tuberous begonias and callas will not find a place here, nor the beloved lily-of-the-valley and white lilacs and hyacinths from my Minnesota boyhood, which languish without the rigors of a real winter. And some things that have not so far favored me with a performance will have to wait their turn in some other report.

At the risk of sophistry, we might begin with some flowers which come in a whole palette of colors—carnations, stocks, snapdragons, sweet peas, petunias. But since they all do have white forms, they get in, and since they are some of the most familiar flowers, and in bloom most of the year, they head the list. Unfortunately, white petunias are seldom the really opulent ones, and the breeders of sweet peas seem to have a mind to improve everything else about the flower, and breed out its unimprovable fragrance. Years ago, I once saw in the catalog of a fashionable eastern seedsman, after pages of the fluffy-duffy super-duper sweet peas, a little box with the listing "Sweet Peas: the old-fashioned sweet-smelling kind." That seedsman is a man after my own heart, and I apologize that I cannot remember his name.

Some of the strictly white flowers, however, are in scattered or intermittent bloom most of the year. Bouvardia Humboldti comes along any time, particularly if you keep several plants and pinch them back at different times, to flower in a floppy yet elegant cluster and release suddenly their fragrance like a soapy Easter-lily. Osmanthus fragrans, the Sweet Olive, offers its shy but dependable flowers during any but the hottest months, and charms you by smelling the way a raspberry tastes. Citruses such as the dwarf lemons and limes will diffuse their fragrance in the midday sun of summer or winter, particularly if you value their fragrance enough to keep them for the flowers alone, and get your fruit elsewhere.

One or other of the gardenias may flower at any time—or, the disillusioned might say, at no time. For countless people acquire gallon gardenias in bright anticipation of an endless corsage, and receive instead an endless disappointment. But I think I have licked that, and herewith offer my hard-won wisdom, viz:

get as many as you can. A single gardenia will tantalize you like a single strawberry plant. With a lot you can afford to be blase.

2. Make up your mind to admire them for their handsome foliage, and consider the flowers a wholly unexpected and unmerited reward.

3. Regard the dropping buds as a natural disbudding, a favor done you by the gardenia to save you the bother you have with carnations and camellias.

Follow these instructions—and give them lots of food and drink and a place in ample but not searing sun—and they will flower with opulence. Water them with your tears and they will die.

The familiar veitchii is the most free-flowering. The handsome Mystery has big flowers that will take

your breath away, and has them dependably, but over a rather short season. Even more narrowly seasonal is little radicans, but is such an exquisite miniature that you will want to carry it around and take it to bed with you. And if you are lucky enough to find any, don't miss a chance to get Gardenia thunbergia, with its profuse single flowers in geometric whorls—which as like as not you will have to help out of the last half-inch of their tightly twisted overcoats, and then watch while they finish unfolding before your very eyes.

Halfway between shrubs and vines are the true jasmines, many of which are continuous, or at least intermittent, in bloom. The most familiar is J. grandiflorum, with its sparse foliage and scrambling habit, and dotted perpetually with the charming, insubstantial flowers, which keep you marveling that so slight a blossom can carry so heavy a fragrance. Quite otherwise is J. sambac Grand Duke—lopsided, ugly, and squat, with fleshy, too double flowers of dirty white hugging the branches. The eye derives no pleasure from this po'r beat-up thing, but to smell it is to be transported into the Arabian Nights—and all is forgiven.

Another sambac jasmine, Maid of Orleans, is far more presentable in appearance, with loosely semi-double flowers hidden in the leafy, arching branches. The flowers turn purple as they go: just the reverse of Brunfeldsia floribunda, which comes out deep purple and bleaches by the third day to white, a charming little shrub. Jasminum ligustrifolium (rigidum) is of unusually trim and neat bright foliage, and it is something of a shock to discover that in flower it is a messy housekeeper, retaining all the old dead flowers it should have discarded days ago. Goldcoast Jasmine, J. dichotomum is the truest vine of these jasmines, with beautiful glossy leaves, and leisurely flowers in soft clusters and a honeyish sweetness, very pervasive at night.

Heaven knows how many other flowers are called jasmines of one kind or another—Chilean Jasmine, Night Jasmine, Star Jasmine. The last, Trachelospermum jasminoides, if we are to insist on calling it jasmine, should be called Nutmeg Jasmine, which is an accurate description of its fragrance. A handsome vine with pretty whorled flowers, it is not everblooming when settled, but newly propagated plants flower when they get ready, and nursery stock can be found in flower at almost any time, spring through late fall.

Two other virtually everblooming vines are Climbing Mock-Orange, and Honeysuckle. The first, Philadelphus mexicanus, is straggly and stringy and perpetually in need of a manicure—possibly because it is cheerful in adversity and often found there, offering frugally but persistently its friendly four-petalled flowers. Honeysuckle, Lonicera japonica halliana, is to an even greater extent a creature of neglect and abuse; it never seems to get pruned or thinned, and looking for the source of the dear familiar fragrance we find it overwhelming some rotted fence or crazy shed. Such rankness, however, does not become it, and I propose to pillar it on a stout post.

The last flowers of fall are still holding on when the earliest flowers of our list, Paper-White Narcissus, begin studding the garden with their nodding bunches. So strong is the northern tradition of forcing them in pebbles and water, that they seem almost out of place in the garden, but indoors or out, fair means or foul, we must have them, and there can never be too many.

The daphnes are winter-blooming, and though usually pink and lavender, D. odra often enough bleaches to white to be included here. Certainly its lively, spicy fragrance merits inclusion anywhere; unfortunately, daphnes seem hard to please in southern California, and a vigorous plant is always a cause for exclaiming. But even though they die every August and have to be treated like annuals, as some desperate gardeners treat lilies, it is worth the expenditure to have at least one plant full of its stubby little flower-clusters in midwinter.

The familiar, rather coarse Summer Lilac has a slender relative that blooms in winter, and that is Buddleia asiatica. It is not admirable in its habit, being all rangy canes of no substance or direction, nor in the color of its flowers, being a nondescript yellowish-white, but its fragrance is something Out of This World—a superlative I do not use lightly.

Presently come freesias, and again the cup overflows. If you haven't them already, cadge them from the naturalized plantings of your friends (and do it while they are in sight—the freesias, that is—by the time you wait for them to ripen there won't be a trace), because the ones you buy are being bred up to the size of gladiolus, nearly as bright and nearly as scentless; when will some bulb catalog offer "the old-fashioned sweet-smelling kind" like the sweet peas?

As the moist days of spring give way to the heat of summer, the main burst of white fragrance occurs. To the bedding plants still holding on from early spring, alyssum and migonette can be added, alyssum with its dry, laundered, airy scent, and migonette with its intimate charm. Alyssum is indestructible, but migonette is capricious, and much prefers to decide for itself where to grow, or to stow away on a pot of something else. It diffuses its fragrance in the warmth of the day, but burns up in bright sun.

Night-scented Tobacco (Nicotiana affinis) is a wonderful heavy evening fragrance where nights are warm; where they are cool, the exhalation is shortened or inhibited and the plants are obstinate in their refusal of fragrance before dusk. Little Stevia (Stevia serrata or Piqueria trinervia) is supposed to be another indestructible, but from seed, at least, I have had scant luck with it. The very mere, baby's-breathy flowers have a warm, close fragrance.

Several summer bulbs and tubers are gorgeous to smell: tuberoses and lilies and ginger. The tuberose (polyanthes tuberosa) is incomparable; plant it in pots so that you can carry them around and bring them inside, and if the odor becomes too heavy—which it may—take them out again. Lilies tend to get demoralized in southern California; they are strongly seasonal, and to have no regular four seasons confuses them. As a result, the Regals and Formosanums of midsummer and late fall may be all through by early summer, and disheartened about another year. Fortunately, both are cheap enough to warrant having at least a few for an-

nuals. Ginger (Hedychium coronarium) is ranks in growth and tropical in scent. It can be very reluctant to bloom, but once started, takes over. Neither full sun nor full shade seems to its liking, but that combination so easy to say and so difficult to achieve, of shade at the roots and sun for the tops. And plenty of food and drink. The flower heads go on and on, and the plant keeps pushing up new spikes into November.

Of shrubby plants, several are summer-blooming; Murraya and Choisya are admirable first for their elegance of habit and refinement of foliage; the intermittent white flowers are rather undistinguished, though pleasant, and smell something like corn-flakes and Dutch Cleanser, respectively. And of course the so-called Night-blooming Jasmine, Cestrum nocturnum. This one is too much for me; like bagpipes, it is best at a half mile.

Two summer vines may be added here: Mandevilla suaveolens, rather insubstantial and disappointing in foliage and habit, but prodigal with its bunches of opulent white flowers when established; and Stephanotis floribunda, with both leaves and flowers of a highly formal finish. Stephanotis is very slow to start, and will remain immobile for months, but once started, you have to get out of its way like the famous George Price vine in the New Yorker.

Many of these go on into the late fall, but the last place in our procession is reserved for an October arrival, to continue through December —the Chrysanthemum. Its sumptuousness of form and color can make one forget it has a fragrance—and, like calendulas and marigolds, not everyone likes the one it has—but for some of us its close, aromatic scent, as much as the smell of burning leaves, means the end of the garden year.

Plant in January

In the flower garden: seeds of alyssum, candytuft, annual chrysanthemums, gilia, lupin, mignonette, California poppy.

The vegetable garden: seeds of kale, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, potatoes (if you must), rhubarb roots.

In seed flats: tomatoes, egg plant, peppers, petunias, lobelia, salvias.

Random Notes From One Small Garden

This fall the sunny days of October brought the berried shrubs into such startling brilliance it is evident this is one of the years when the weather at Rancho Santa Fe has been "just right" for berries. Now, in my garden, I see the long branches of several pyracanthus plants bending low with their bright rich burdens, while a different variety trained into a useful espaliered pattern, displays berries of a still more vivid scarlet.

Down by the garden gate a tall toyon bush has developed finer fruit than ever before. Even the cotoneasters which line the garden wall seem to have cleaaner leaves and larger berries than usual.

Soon the interesting seedpods of the pittisporums will be gone, although enough fragrant orange berries are still useful to combine with arrangements of small chrysanthemums shaded with deep red.

Most of the autumn flowers will soon be trampled by our first rainstorms (we hope), but fortunately this gardener has established a number of hardy plants which continue to provide a contrast of interesting color throughout the entire year. Of these my favorites are several large pots of rich red epidendrums. These blossom continuously, the graceful stems growing longer and longer as the blossom heads increase for many days. The plants also increase so satisfactorily that there can be several small extra plants always ready to share with someone else.

The other "color plants" which I consider important, are my three varieties of dusty miller, my clumps of artemesia and plants of Texas privet. All of these grow to great size unless they are cut back, or divided from time to time. Hence these have also become an interesting source of plant material to give away, and to cut for use in the exhibits of the Garden Club. To tell the truth, each of these gray plants, the three dusty millers, the artemesia and the Texas privet, has for me an additional sentimental value, because they have all been grown from cuttings or plants which were acquired during some certain experience at Flower Show time.

This last summer my giant dusty miller became the home of one of the most determined colonies of ants in the garden. These pests were unusually bad at Rancho Santa Fe, and I discovered many colonies beneath the interesting rocks I like to use in the garden. Hence a current statement in the "Southern California Rancher" had especial interest for me. It is there stated that ants are not only found everywhere in the world, even in the Arctic regions, but "their colonies are moreover remarkably stable, sometimes outlasting a generation of men. Such stability is due to the longevity of the individual ants, since workers live from four to five years, and queens from thirteen to fifteen years" . . "this time of year, when ants go into hibernation . . . as many as a thousand queens may gather. If the worker ants unknowingly supply these large hibernating colonies with poison food, the queens and young will never emerge." Therefore the autumn months "are the best time to start control" and this gardener intends to round up the poison bottles and refill them with the hope that something useful will result.

Ruth R. Nelson,
Rancho Santa Fe, California.

Speakers' Platform

SEPTEMBER

You should hear dirt gardeners dish it when they get together. In fact you would have if you'd attended the September meeting. Elliot M. Albright was listed as "the speaker" but he turned it into a round table discussion, or somebody did. It certainly must have been Mr. Albright because he distinctly gave the impression that he couldn't be bothered with standing on ceremony.

There were some valuable personal experiences on girdling and grafting avocados, too long to write up. You'll have to come to these meetings to get the full good of them. Sapotes entered into the same discussion. People who have sapote trees aren't regretting it any. They have an extra source of delicious, fresh fruit. Somebody mentioned the Mary Martin avocado which amused those of us who dabble in theatrical data.

Mr. Albright, believe it was, men-

tioned that the olive variety, Manzanita, bears consistently and has nice large fruit. This was interesting to know as people are always talking about olives but nobody mentions kinds, like Delicious for apple and Hale for peach. Muscat, Thompson seedless, and the dark, sweet Zinfandel were ticked off as good grape varieties for the home garden in answer to a question. Mr. Albright said it's a good idea to give them plenty of water and fertilizer if you want plenty of grapes! Bet the number of people who slip up on that is surprising.

Here's something else he mentioned which you can remember not to slip up on this time of year—always touch pruned ends with a pruning paste preparation. After all, we're pretty particular about treating cuts in our own epidermis in this day and age. Imagine not touching up a cut finger with that pretty red stuff.

On the control of nematode with the fascinating DD, Mr. Albright again demonstrated the practicality of the dirt gardener. Pour a half a teaspoon into a hole, cover, and step on it. Holes every 12 inches. A person can do that with the ease of any little every day task. Experiment on how close you can come to permanent plants without harming them, he said. Of course, when a person experiments, he starts in with something he can stand to part with.

A last dirt gardening hint from Mr. Albright was on the subject of dispatching your ants all at one time. Ants don't like to walk around on the hot ground, said he, and they are all down below in the hill at lunch time. So do your dirty work then, if you've got to do it.

OCTOBER

Dr. Oscar L. Gabriel sold carnations when he was a little kid, and he's still doing it although thoroughly established in man's estate as a practicing dentist, and husband and father.

Your dentist is a thoroughly trained, methodical, scientific workman. And if it's commercial carnations that have to be raised, maybe dentists better do it. Dr. Gabriel's dissertation on his carnation "plant" in Encinitas left most of us perfectly willing to let that be the case. It's not that we're lazy, but—but!

Those carnations are from selected slips, they are sterilized and er—cauterized? They are dusted with root hormone. They have to be aired. After they are rooted they are: dug out, never yanked; encased in plant bands in a soil mixed according to formula; fertilized once a week (formula changed for spring and fall); sprayed twice a week. This is probably a very rough and incomplete description of their progress, too.

But Dr. Gabriel appears to like it and his long stemmed, crisp flowers are irresistible. They sparkle, they spice the air. Their dainty fimbriated edges seem to dance before the eyes. Their colors are those of the finest sugar candy. We are all very glad that Dr. Gabriel devotes his talent and training to raising them.

Seems to take a lot of horse sense, too, like the best test for potting soil; never wet enough to stick to your fingers.

It won't hurt to give some of the points caught on the fly, as they could be very useful to garden growers of several carnation plants. For instance, when taking slips, choose the two middle ones on the flower stem. They are the best. From two to four inches is the right length for slips. Too long ones are apt to be too weak. Just as the stem bursts into flower is the right time and take a little stem wood with the slip.

Chula Vista's contribution to plant propagation, Pearlite, is fine for rooting the cuttings. For the potting soil, the formula is something like this: 2 parts sand, 3 of clay, 4 of compost loam, 3 of peat, and 3 ounces each per bushel of Dolomite lime (whatever that is) and bone meal.

Nematodes one will have in his hair in coast soil if he doesn't do something about them, and Dr. Gabriel is going to town with the DD thing. So far, it has been good; hasn't killed the soil bacteria, hasn't held up the transplanting, and he can use it with each crop.

The thing called "stopping" is what makes lots of bloom stems on carnations. It is breaking off the top of a growth stem, so that three or four joints are left. It is done in the morning of a bright sunny day. It isn't done all at once, but as the plant grows, and is ceased when there have been about 12 breaks on a plant.

Carnations grow well in gallon cans, and you can doll up the cans with a jacket of bamboo or cane lengths.

There was lots more, but again we repeat: come to the meetings. The pictures Dr. Gabriel showed with the assistance of George C. Wernham were a great loss to the stay-at-homers. Mr. Wernham projected them, but he also had taken them, with, it surely seems, truly admirable self-sacrifice on his part. How often do you find a photographer who is willing to show you exactly how a thing is done, rather than a "composition"? No magazine bulb popper will do it under pain of death, apparently. But Mr. Wernham concentrated on method, a continually pleasant aspect of the slides. Of course Dr. Gabriel may have stood over him with a forceps to obtain that result, but then again Mr. Wernham may be the dawn of a new and wonderful era for viewers of gardening pictures.—A.P.

Speakers' Dates

Floral Association meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, at present in the Theosophical Society building at Fourth and Olive. The December meeting will be held there as the home building in Balboa Park will not be ready for some time, it was announced at the time of going to press.

The meetings are for the enjoyment of you and your friends.

NOVEMBER

Charles F. Harbison of the Natural History Museum was the scheduled speaker at the time of going to press. The write-up of the November meeting will appear in a later issue.

DECEMBER

W. Allen Perry, San Diego park superintendent and a valued member of the Floral Association's Board of Directors, has the December meeting and it is a gala get-together for all before the Christmas holidays. The meeting will be held in the Theosophical Society headquarters at Fourth and Olive, and not in Balboa Park.

1948

Dr. Joshua Baily and J. H. Macpherson will take over the first meetings of the new year.

Return to the Forest

(*Continued from the Fall Issue*)

By Ada Perry

This is the story of a vacation in Kings Canyon National Park with notes on the plant life, and also notes on the all-important subject of how such vacations were made possible by protecting the sequoias and other forested areas. Miss Perry and Miss Barbara Biewener from Dean Palmer's staff in the County Department of Agriculture are the vacationers. They have been riding down the trail to the General Grant tree grove of sequoias in the Park, and have just come in sight of the tremendously big, tremendously majestic General Grant tree itself. The voices of children are what one notices after the size of the tree as they apparently love to play around it.

B. E. Jamison, the Park's ranger-naturalist, had told us the year before that the General Grant is known as the nation's Christmas tree, and that Christmas services are held there each December 25. Perhaps some child was the deciding influence in this choice.

The year before we had stayed a few minutes while the mountain bus waited to take us on through from Sequoia to Fresno. This year we had hours instead of minutes to spend. Barbara tied up Dixie and I rode white Pigeon up close to the Sequoias near the hitching rack so she could take a color picture of the shapely fellow against the red-gold bark.

Barbara then intimated she had some angle shots to try with the General and retired to likely positions. In the back of my mind there had stuck something else Mr. Jamison had said the year before, to the effect that the Grant had a greater base circumference than the Sherman. So, tying Pigeon beside Dixie, I made for the wide path around the parkway of the Grant, shaking my head. The base circumference of the Sherman is really enough for any one.

The Grant tree is a truly awesome work of creation and walking around it is an experience. From a point up on the slope, there is a view of the trunk that is breathtaking. One is quite willing to admit that it is as large or larger than the Sherman. There is actually not much difference. The Grant is 107.6 feet and the Sherman 101.6 feet. This measurement is the base circumference.

Below the tree's parkway, there is a group of young sequoias with their airy, blue-green foliage shading benches and tables. Barbara and I met there later.

The young trees are immaculate in their babyhood, with foliage that is fine fingered like some ferns. And it is blue-green, giving an impression of delicacy. Some of these trees were planted about 1918 and are what might be called "store" Christmas tree size. Very young ones three or four years old are about 15 inches high.

Planting out of sequoia seedlings goes on all the time, young ranger Robert Handley told us as we sat on the benches. This is the Grant tree "office." Mr. Jamison, frequently there, happened to be at headquarters that day and Robert talked to us pleasantly about the sequoias and their safe-keeping under the government. Only eight per cent of the groves are still privately owned.

He spoke of the Redwood Canyon forest, in Kings Canyon National Park area, where there are 3000 trees over 10 feet in diameter, and which is believed by many to be the largest and finest sequoia grove, untouched and primitive, yet accessible to those eager to visit it. Asked about the fascinating glimpses of sequoia domes near Castle Rock on the mountain bus route up, he said the Atwell grove was north and east of this great stone stack, and it is the home of the sequoia growing at the highest natural elevation of the species, 8,800 feet. This tree is nearly 14 feet in diameter.

We talked away, the ranger putting himself completely at our service. I had been greatly impressed by the businesslike habits of a ceanothus, or native California lilac, which seemed to know everything required of a rock garden or ground cover type of shrub.

It was symmetrical, it was spreading, it even remained shapely when a portion had died back. The ranger did not appear impressed that it was adapted to rock work, and I can see how that would be with a man spending his time in the high Sierras, but he did tell us that its name was ceanothus cordulatus, snow brush.

He suggested that we see ranger Jamison at headquarters for more information on "saving the redwoods" in this day when Uncle Sam owns some 73 groves. The sequoia heritage must still be guarded, but in a different way.

We skirted Grant Grove coming back, paying particular attention to the fallen Michigan tree as the trail wound through the wooden rubble of it. Later, after some thought, I wrote my sister that it looked like Balboa Park's California tower smashed all over three quarters of an acre, and that's still as far as my invention goes. This Sequoia fell in 1933. It is a most spectacular ruin of might.

Wing-footed, like home-coming youngsters, the horses soon had us back at their corral. As we were walking to Grant Grove headquarters, Barbara made a discovery. I heard her say "Oh" in the tone a housewife uses when she finds herself adding sugar instead of salt to the cooking, or vice versa.

I turned to see her stooping, and looking a strange woodland flower right in the eye.

"This," she said sternly, "is a Pine Drops instead of that other."

It took a few rapid switches in my own train of thought but I was soon reorganized enough to inquire what other and she answered the flower we saw down by the headquarters library the other day. The one she was still staring out of countenance was a dainty reddish brown spire with little white bells on it, standing in a mat of pine needles.

I had gotten a flower booklet from the Grant tree ranger, as well as sequoia information, so we rustled pages right there. Sure enough, the stem of white (and greenish) little bells seen down by the library belonged to Pirola picta, forlornly called white-veined shin-leaf for short. We both remembered its "loud" patterned green and white leaves. The Pine Drops (Pterospora andromeda) before us had no leaves to speak of. But both plants belonged to the heath family, according to the booklet, so our mistake was between family members.

Coming across Pussy Paws (Calyptridium umbellatum) in the booklet, Barbara hmm'd and remarked she'd

WINTER COLOR

(Continued from Page 2)

you have the striking B. rosea gigantea. It does better with indoor warmth. Hairy begonias are lovely through the winter. Choose the types that appeal. Some show branching panicles of bloom 15 inches across, some are in large balls with fuzzy pink hairs. They are really fur-bearing plants, and you won't feel sorry for them out in the cold with their plushy coats. Strangely enough, they will stand more heat and lower temperature than any begonias, but do not like strong sun. They grow very large in the ground but smaller plants are handsome indoors.

Florists make a Christmas show of named varieties of bulbous begonias that are only successful in the house. They have round ruffled leaves and a cloud of pink, rose or white flowers above them. They bloom a long time and intrigue us into an attempt to carry them over but it requires controlled heat and experienced hands. A very satisfactory winter bloomer with the easy name of "It," has the same type of flower, but the leaves are green with silver spots. If you can control the mealy bugs that like it so well, it is a fine begonia. Swab the pests with a drop of alcohol.

If you have a plant stand or trough, choose a few taller begonias for the middle or ends and fill in with the so-called bedding type. These come dwarf and tall, spotted and plain, single and double and in all shades from red to white, so they will fit any combination, and are in full flower now. Later they can be cut back and slipped into the garden until they bloom again. They are charming combined with the saintpaulias that are so faithful in providing the blue color lacking in the begonia spectrum. Start collecting some of these plants now for a colorful winter, indoors and out, next year.

RETURN TO FOREST

(Continued from Page 7)

seen lots of them up here, whereupon I Oh'd and complained why hadn't I? She didn't know, she was sure, but calmly pointed out one before we reached headquarters. It was, if you please, a naive little thing all done up in pink and green velvet (apparently), flourishing on the raw bank of a fill. Member of the purslane family.

Saturday came, our last whole day, before Mr. Jamison was spied going across to the Rangers' office building. We trailed him there and discovered him sandwiched between the businesses of directing a traveler to Cedar Grove, and discussing a slide collection of Kodachromes of Death Valley National Monument to be shown at the Rangers' program in the amphitheatre that night.

When it was our turn, he talked to us as if he hadn't a thing else on his mind. B. E. Jamison had been a ranger for about 25 years. He is known as a ranger-naturalist. During the winter, he is a director of the Junior College in Porterville.

He listened attentively when informed that the California Garden magazine had belonged to the Redwood League and assisted in the work of rescuing the groves from the floods of timber and cattle land claims that threatened them again and again before they were safely in the hands of the government, for the enjoyment of all the people as represented by the government.

Then he sketched in the work of protecting the trees as it is today: fire lookouts, fire-fighting equipment, cleaning up in the tree areas.

And the prevention of erosion.

You would not think that erosion would be a problem in the sequoia groves. Fire prevention, as many of us realize, is a matter of alertness, equipment, and trained men.

The prevention of erosion requires constant observance and positive measures. To guard the spectacular giants and the lesser trees of the groves, other work goes on: the putting in of breakers of logs and rocks, filling in of dirt and planting of tree seedlings, the diverting of streams so that certain trees or stands of them do not become undermined.

It was amazing to learn that the ruin of the Michigan tree through which we had ridden a few days ago was thought to have been caused by a tiny rill with a flow no bigger than a pencil. I recalled with amusement how big Pigeon's forelegs had trembled slightly crossing the mud-hole made by the rill at a low point. He'd crossed like he'd done everything else I'd asked of him, because he was a perfect gentleman. But perhaps he suspected that tiny rill of overthrowing the mighty sequoia, house-sized chunks of which were scattered all around us! Small Dixie, I might add, had not approved of following the trail through the wild chaos of broken timber, and when she came to the mud-hole, it was all too much. She could not bring herself to cross that terrible, dangerous swamp — with quick-sand, maybe. Barbara had gotten off, had gotten on again, had coaxed, had waited, had talked softly . . . Dixie suddenly spied an unusually nice tuft of grass on the other side. She pattered across with neatness and dispatch. She'd have been spoiled but good if we'd stayed another week.

Mr. Jamison knew all the Park horses and smiled at our references to them. He went on answering questions. King's Canyon National Park was established in 1940. Before that, the comparatively smaller Grant's Grove area had been a National Park for 57 years, and the larger King's Canyon area a National Forest since about 1915. Creating a National Park of the two at once offered to the people of the country a greatly enlarged recreational area, and a better refuge for the wild life.

The aim for Kings Canyon National Park is to keep it as primitive as possible. The road down along the Kings river canyon, 20 miles from headquarters, is a good one and highly regarded by those who visit the Park in cars. But it is to go no further than Copper Creek. Points beyond that are to be kept for foot and pack train trails.

A National Park, Mr. Jamison explained, is under the U. S. Department of the Interior, while a National Forest is a Conservation project of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This work of these two departments of our government seems worthy of our most unselfish, and also our most selfish, attention. For while we may wish to preserve the redwoods and other forests for the sake of posterity, it only takes a few days among them to make us determined that they be preserved for our own sakes.

PLANT IN FEBRUARY

In the flower garden: cosmos, larkspur, linaria, nasturtium, phlox, venidium, Virginia stocks.

The vegetable garden: early bush beans, beets, lettuce, mustard, onion sets, radishes, bush squash, chard.

In seed flats: asters, dahlias, dianthus or pinks, impatiens, statice.

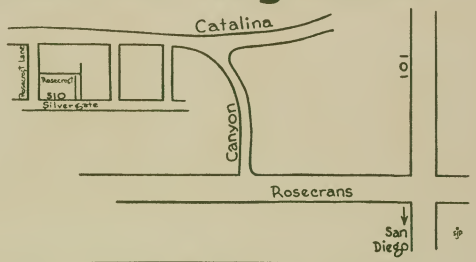
SHOPPERS' GUIDE

LOCATION	FIRM	SPECIALTIES
DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO	Albright's Farm & Garden Store 702 Ninth Ave., F-5822	Seeds, Garden Equipment
	Dunning's, Inc. 909 Sixth Ave., F-5387	Seeds, Bulbs
	Millar Seed Co. 733 Broadway, M-0219	Seeds
	Rainford Flower Shop 2140 Fourth Ave., F-7101	Cut Flowers, Potted Plants
MIDDLETOWN	Ackerman Products Co. 4370 Pacific Highway, W-0409	Garden Fences
	Reynard Way Camellia Gardens 2661 Reynard Way, W-1493	Camellias, Cymbidium
HILLCREST	Washington Street Nursery 510 W. Washington, J-8228	Plants
MISSION HILLS	Mission Hills Nursery 1525 Ft. Stockton Dr., J-2808	Plants
LOMA PORTAL	Walter Andersen's Nurseries	Camellias, Dahlias, Shrubs
POINT LOMA	Rosecroft Begonia Gardens 510 Silvergate, Pt. Loma	Tuberous Begonias, Fuchsias
OCEAN BEACH	Montalvo Gardens 4455 Montalvo St., B-4070	Rex Begonias, Ferns, Plants
LINDA VISTA	Point Loma Nursery 1150 Greenwood, W-3588	Roses, Grow-Right
EAST SAN DIEGO	Kniffing Brothers Nurseries 5503 El Cajon Blvd., T-7881	Fruit Trees, Arizona Flagstone
	Rose-A-Lee Nursery 4130 Estrella Ave., T-9716	Tree Dwarfing
LOGAN HEIGHTS	George F. Otto & Son 3572 Logan Ave., M-2871	Seeds, Plants
NATIONAL CITY	F. W. James & Son 510 National Ave., G-7-4151	Seeds, Plants
CORONADO	F. W. James & Son 145 Orange Ave., H-3-4735	Seeds, Plants
ENCINITAS, CALIF.	Dr. Oscar L. Gabriel	Carnations
RICHMOND, CALIF.....	California Spray-Chemical Corp.	Sprays, Pest Control

Rosecroft Blooms Again

and offers extra large tubers from our Home Grown Tuberous Begonias

Also the new fuchsias are proving themselves.
Come and see them in our display yard.



ROSECROFT BEGONIA GARDENS
510 SILVERGATE, POINT LOMA
B-0224

Headquarters for

ROSES

POINT LOMA NURSERY

Plenty of parking space.

Drive in and see our nursery stock.

1150 GREENWOOD
Just off Morena Boulevard on Linda Vista Road

Woodcrest 3588

No Merrier Way to send Christmas Greetings!

Send

Poinsettias

from

RAINFORD
FLOWER SHOP

2140 Fourth Avenue
Phone Franklin 7101

Walter Andersen's Nurseries

A variety of Potted Plants

For Your Eastern Friends

A real California Gift — Meissner Baskets made of redwood and filled with fruits and nuts. Orders shipped to any place in the United States.

3860 ROSECRANS - J-3721
½ Block West of Rosecrans and 101 Highway Intersection

San Diego's Largest Nursery

Have you told your friends about

CALIFORNIA GARDEN?